

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board



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Staff provided by the
Department of
Administration

September 18, 2003

James A. Musso
Manager, Siting and Land Rights
Xcel Energy
1414 West Hamilton Avenue, P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

RE: Xcel's Request to Relocate Portions of the 115 kV Transmission Line at the Sherco Power Plant near Becker, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Musso:

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) has received your request for the proposed relocation of 27 transmission line structures near the Sherco plant in order to accommodate the expansion of the facility's existing fly-ash pond. EQB staff has reviewed the request and I have discussed the matter with the staff.

I have determined that this request meets the criteria of a minor alteration under part 4400.3820 of the EQB Power Plant Siting Rules. The rules allow authorization of a minor alteration without the necessity of complete environmental review and a formal permit. The rules require the EQB to provide notice to persons on its energy facilities list that an application for a minor alteration has been made. Then the public has at least 10 days to comment on the application.

This item was noticed in the EQB Monitor published September 2, 2003. Public comments on this alteration were due to EQB by Friday September 12, 2003. After close of the comment period, the Chair is then authorized by the rule to grant the minor alteration, to bring the matter to the Board, or to require that a full permit be applied for, at his discretion. No public comments were received on this matter. I have determined that this minor alteration may proceed as requested.

If you have any additional questions on this matter, feel free to contact Alan Mitchell at 651 296-3714 or by e-mail at Alan.Mitchell@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Schroeder, Chair
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

Cc: Power Plant Service List, Pam Rasmussen, Walt Grivna, Xcel Energy

